

Joe Bustillos

RSI60 A
S 203
9/27/76
Essay#2

WHAT IS MYSTICISM ?

It has previously been said that "Religion is the human response to the Holy." ^{Sometimes} This human response can be termed as mysticism. Mysticism can, likewise, be described as being in union with Das Heilige, or the Holy.

This union is not an encounter, as running into a wall might be considered an encounter. But this union is percieved solely from within the individual. What is meant by the phrase: "Pre-^{percieved}cieved solely from within the individual", is that this knowledge, this experience, is not ingested through any of the sense organs outside or inside the physical body, but this knowledge is "poured" directly into the very spirit of the individual. The mystical experience is a very high form of intuitive knowledge.

good

Name: 7

Course: 160A

Critique of Term Project for Fr. Ryan, S.J.

1. Bibliography; *9*

Excellent Very Good Good Adequate Unsatisfactory

2. Procedure:

Excellent Very Good Good Adequate Unsatisfactory

3. Format:

Excellent Very Good Good Adequate Unsatisfactory

4. Chronology:

Excellent Very good Good Adequate Unsatisfactory

5. Limitation of Subject, i.e., Final Choice of Topic

Excellent Very Good Good Adequate Unsatisfactory

6. General Comment: *14*

*Splendid — shows real control
and analytical ability — fine
start in research*

23

7.

WHAT IS RELIGION ?- by Joe Bustillos

RS I60 A; S203; Fr. Ryan

Over an arid and unchanged land, dark foreboding clouds cluster. There is a humid gust of wind and then stillness. Overladen with moisture the clouds unload their burden to the parched and thirsty ground below. Each droplet finding its home in the dust of the earth. The darkened sky is suddenly lit ~~up~~ by a long thorny finger of lightning. The dampened soil shines as polished silver under the radiant light. In a neighboring village old men can be heard offering up thanksgiving and praise to the God of their Fathers for the much needed rain. To these men, weathermen and barometers mean nothing, for the [?] answer lies in the God of their Fathers.

The spirit of curiosity overcomes a man as he observes a bee fly from flower to flower. He marvels that an insect that ~~is as~~ small ~~as such~~ has the ability to propel itself from place to place with such accuracy. The question of why and how ^{this maybe} burns deep into his heart. The unanswered man is left, however, with a simple three lettered ~~ed~~ word, God. Religion is man's built-in answer to the unanswerable.

In an ancient city a man walks over to a crowded pool. By the pool, the man encounters a man that has been an invalid for thirty-eight years. During the course of their conversation the first asks the latter, "W^{ould} you like to be able to walk?" And just as easily as the question was spoken, so the invalid found himself walking. Amazement and wonder filled those that knew the

one -time invalid. The miracle and the man are explained as being of God.

Man has left on this planet at least four-thousand years of recorded history. [And] in that period of time, his concept of God and of true religion has changed drastically. But one thing remains the same. As long as there are unanswered questions, there will be those proclaiming the God of answers.